

Treasury Department,
Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C., January 18, 1899.

J. M. Torrey Esq.,
United States Assay Office,
New York, N. Y.,

Dear Sir:

When I was recently in New York you made the request that in this Office desired to take up for investigation the matter of your controversy with the Magnolia Metal Company and of your indictment and trial at Sterling, New Jersey, you should be given an opportunity to make a statement.

I would now request that you make a full statement covering your connection with the Magnolia Metal Company, the character of your service in their employ, of the affair for which you were indicted and the charge upon which you were convicted.

I understand that you had been charged with furnishing official certificates of the composition of their goods which in fact were not true statements, and with making certificates of certain comparative tests of the Magnolia metal and rival compositions which in fact were not true statements of any actual tests. I would like a full explanation of these certificates and tests. You are familiar with these old charges; please give me a clear account of the whole matter.

I am informed that after you were advised by this office that it

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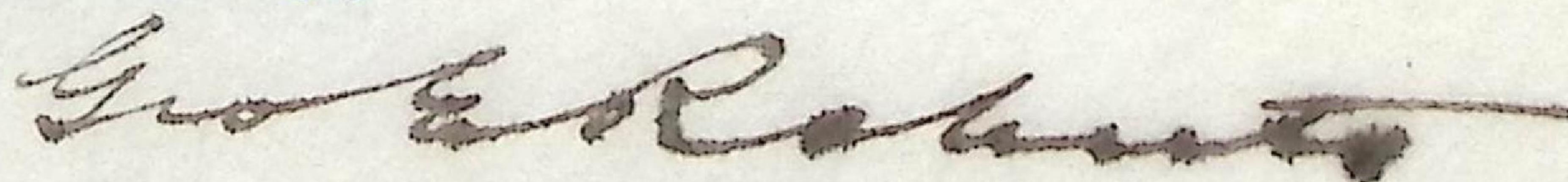
was contrary to the rules of the Bureau for one in your position to permit his official connection to be used to promote the sale of a private product in competition with other like goods; you continued to do so, and that, in fact, your official connection was thereafter, with your knowledge, widely advertised to effect such sales. I would inquire if the enclosure which purports to be a copy of an open letter written by you September 2nd, 1896, is a true copy.

I understand that several indictments were returned against you at the October, 1897, term of the Morris County Court. A copy of one of them before me contains six counts, and another three counts. Will you please inform me upon which indictment you were tried, and upon what specific counts the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. Also advise me what has been done with the other indictment. Does it still stand against you?

Please also advise me as to the present status of the case in which conviction was secured. Has the judgment of the Court been announced?

I will thank you to give me of all these matters such a detailed and particular account as will enable me to fully understand them.

Yours truly,



George R. Roberts
Director of the Mint.